

Message Text

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43

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

SY-10 JUSE-00 H-03 /036 W

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R 030900Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5677

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E.O. 11652: DECON 10/2/74

TAGS: CASC MA US

SUBJ: W/W REPPAS

REF: TANANARIVE 1342

1. CONSOFF RECEIVED LETTER FROM REPPAS SEPT 27 ASKING THAT LAWYER RAVONY BE CONSULTED BEFORE EMBASSY CONTACTED GOMR CONCERNING STATUS OF CASE (REFTEL PARA 3). LETTER BEING POUCHED TO DEPT.

2. CONSOFF MET WITH LAWYER OCT 1. RAVONY FELT THAT EMBASSY INQUIRY AT THIS TIME WOULD BE HELPFUL. ALTHOUGH EAGER TO AVOID TRIAL WHERE JURY WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING COMPLEXITY OF CASE, HE FELT ADDITIONAL "PRESSURE" (I.E. EMBASSY INQUIRY CONCERNING PRESENT STATUS OF CASE) ON EXAMINING MAGISTRATE MIGHT BRING ABOUT REPPAS RELEASE. EXAMINING MAGISTRATE, HE SAID, HAS NOT FINISHED HEARINGS AS REPORTED REFTEL PARA 3, AND IS STALLING IN ANTICIPATION OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

3. DCM CONTACTED MFA DIRECTOR OF STUDIES OCT 1, WHO IMMEDIATELY MADE CHECK WITH PROCUREUR GENERAL PERSONALLY. LATTER INDICATES HEARINGS BEFORE EXAMINING MAGISTRATE WILL BE FINISHED IN MID-NOV AND TRIAL WILL BE HELD AT END OF SAME MONTH.

4. CONSOFF MADE REGULAR PRISON VISIT OCT 2. REPPAS INFORMED OF LAWYER'S POSITION AND SUBSTANCE OF PROCUREUR GENERAL'S. REPPAS TOLD CONSOFF THAT STARTING SAME DAY HE WAS ON HUNGER STRIKE. LETTERS
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FROM HOME HAD INFORMED HIM OF HIS MOTHER'S ILLNESS AND HE WOULD

FAST UNTIL PERMITTED TO LEAVE MADAGASCAR TO SEE HER. LATER IN CONVERSATION REPPAS STATED HE WOULD BECOME "SERIOUSLY ILL" THIS WEEK AND WOULD SURELY REQUIRE HOSPITALIZATION. REPPAS HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY EFFECTIVENESS OF MANANDAFY RAKOTONIRINA'S HUNGER STRIKE AND HOSPITALIZATION. (REDUCTION OF TOTAL SENTENCE FROM TWO YEARS TO FOUR MONTHS AND IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- SEE TANA A-135, OCT 2, 1973).

5. CONSOFF HAS SPOKEN WITH LOCAL AMERICAN WHO VISITED SEVENTY-FOUR YEAR OLD MRS. REPPAS LAST MONTH. SHE WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING IN ALMOST CONSTANT HYSTERIA.

6. EMBASSY NOW AWAITING GOMR REACTION TO LATEST REPPAS PLOY.
MENDENHALL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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